

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the courtesies extended by Examiner Chang during the personal interview conducted on October 14, 2004, are greatly appreciated.

In the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004, claims 15-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker et al. '001 in view of Asai et al., and further in view of Browne. And, claims 18 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker et al. '001 in view of Asai et al., and further in view of Nakao et al. and Browne. These rejections were discussed during the personal interview.

Initially during this interview, Applicants' undersigned representative explained why a combination of Baker et al. '001 and Browne would not result in the invention as recited in claim 15. Examiner Chang disagreed and explained his position. Basically, Examiner Chang expressed that the limitation "one side of the board transfer path... and the other side of the board transfer path" can be interpreted to mean positions that are intersected by a longitudinal direction of the board transfer path, such that the rejection of claim 15 is proper and will be maintained.

Applicants' undersigned representative explained that what is intended by claim 15 with regard to the two sides of the board transfer path, are that these sides are on opposite lateral sides of the board transfer path. In other words, the sides of the board transfer path are analogous to houses being positioned on opposite sides of a street.

In order to clearly recite what is intended, it was agreed that claims 15, 18 and 23 would be amended so as to make it clear that the sides are "opposite" one another. Examiner Chang agreed that such an amendment would define around the rejections of record. Thus, each of claims 15, 18 and 23 have been amended to recite

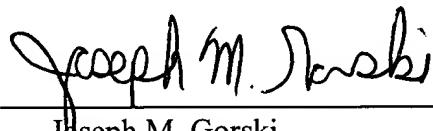
wherein all of the first component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on one side of the board transfer path, and all of the second component supply tables of said component mounting apparatuses are positioned on another side of the board transfer path, **with said another side being opposite to said one side.**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 15-25, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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